

APRIL MAGAZINES.

ATLANTIC.

*A critical paper on "Coleridge as Man and Artist," by George Parsons Lathrop, presents a carefully weighed estimate of the renowned English poet, containing several original and striking suggestions which will throw light on his mind and character. Mr. Lathrop attaches a good deal of importance to the influence of heredity on the genius of Coleridge, tracing it back to a remote Celtic ancestry, the remains of which are pointed out with plausible ingenuity, if not with convincing evidence. Barely certain was the writer remarks, in the supreme quality of his inspiration, which was akin to that of the harpers, whose voices anciently sounded along the legendary valleys of Wales or in the heroic courts of Ireland. Among his living verse are found lines in imitation of Ossian, besides a long poem from the Welsh, which indeed has more of modern fancy than of antique bardic sentiment; but its nativity is significant. It was moved by the Ossianic chants, as well as the Welsh romances, are Celtic; and the peculiar tone both of the "Christabel" and "The Ancient Mariner" is of a purely Celtic type. Although the suggestions of this note are found in old Scotch and English ballads, Mr. Lathrop claims to his credit that there was something deeper than that—something of ancestral sympathy which produced the transfigured beauty of old Celtic genius which is seen in the poetry of Coleridge.**After his visit to Germany the Celtic element gave way to the Saxon, and hence the prevailing tone of his later poems is German-English, softened with gentle melodies and touches of classic grace, but with rarely a gleam of the old fire which at first glowed on the altar of his genius. Mr. Lathrop's heartfelt recognition of the pre-eminence of Coleridge, though it may not be widely accepted, is expressed in terms of singular force and beauty: "Coleridge was wise all, a poet, a poet of rare imagination and of moral powers indescribable, whose chants fartranscend the song of Wordsworth in spontaneousness and artistic beauty. He had no novel purpose, no theory to enforce, no special interpretation of nature which would suffice to form a school or to influence modern poetry so directly as Wordsworth has done, but his melodious and imaginative inspiration has passed into the air that all poets breathe, and will always affect them to their advantage. He graduated at college at the age of eighteen, and it became necessary for him to earn his bread. He would not consent to depend upon his pen, and took to teaching for his support. After six years of this life he obtained a professor's chair. He was a fascinating lecturer, though his facts were not always stirring; as theories had no glitter than cold; he had no method; he was tickle in his ideas; without scientific accuracy or thought, statement, or language; but so full of enthusiasm and sympathy that he excited more interest than any other lecturer. He was white-haired at twenty-five, thin, seventy, pale, thin, all nerves, delicate, issues forth. Such is Coleridge. Beautiful are the formed, secure, and reverent lives of self-repecting men. But beautiful also, and precious, is the life that like a breaking wave, spills its ebb in such rills as those of Coleridge, with such wild perfume!" The "Reminiscences of Washington" offers a third chapter of political gossip, describing the Kitchen Cabinet and the social saturnalia of the capital during the administration of President Jackson. There is another chapter of political speculation, by an anonymous writer, on "Republican Candidates for the Presidency." T. B. Aldrich gives the concluding segment of a new story, entitled the "Stillwater Tragedy." Madame Henrietta Paizow, a German woman of rare mental endowments and great celebrity as a novelist, is the subject of an interesting sketch by Miss Harriet Preston; Mrs. Rose Terry Cooke contributes a characteristic New-England story on "The Culture of Small Fruits"; and there are attractive articles on "Wood-Cut Printing," by Theodore L. De Vinne; "Eighty Miles in Indiana Caverns," by H. C. Hoover; "Rocky Mountain Mules," by Ernest Ingerson, and others.*

HARPER.

In an article on the "Navy of the United States," Mr. E. H. Derby urges the importance of increased attention to that branch of the national defence, supporting his positions by a large array of facts, and sound practical conclusions. Mr. Derby remarks that we have relied for our naval ships built during the hurried and perfunctory of the late war. But the life of a wooden ship rarely exceeds twelve or thirteen years, which time has elapsed since we built ships for cruisers, and to re-cover our Southern fortresses. While our ships have gone to decay, the models have become obsolete, although there has been a great increase in the size of canon and the strength of armor. The ironclads of Europe now mount canon from six to one hundred tons in weight, are armored with plates from ten to twenty inches in thickness, and throw projectiles weighing from two hundred to two thousand pounds each, concentrating at a single point the force of a whole broadside of such ships as Nelson commanded at Trafalgar. We ask too much, says Mr. Derby, of the fine corps of officers who have been educated in the war, when we call upon them to sustain the Stars and Stripes with ships unfit to cross the ocean, and suited only to coast defence. The commerce of the country is now advancing. During the year 1877 the arrivals and clearances in our foreign and coastwise commerce were equal to the arrivals and clearances in the ports of Great Britain and Ireland. To protect this vast amount of property, exceeding \$6,000,000,000, in which the whole country is interested, we have expended on our defense only not more than \$17,000,000, or for the insurance of such property from piracy and war, less than three-tenths of one per centum. Our seaboard cities, moreover, have property exceeding \$4,000,000,000 exposed to foreign ironclads, which can throw shells of great size more than four miles, while we have no fortresses or ships of war that are adequate to its protection. Mr. Derby also forcibly insists on the necessity of suitable provisions for the supply of able and efficient seamen. He does justice to the Naval School at Annapolis as an institution, for the training of officers, but he doubts whether they are so well versed in seamanship as in the earlier days of our Navy, when the officers were taken from the merchantman, and such men as Decatur, Preble, Bainbridge, Hull, Stewart, and Macdonough were brought to the front. Mr. Derby evidently writes from a thorough study of the subject, and with the earnestness of a familiar knowledge and sincere conviction. The descriptive articles in this number possess very considerable interest, including "Some Pennsylvania Books," by Ella Rodman Church, devoted to scenes along the Chester Valley, the head-quarters of Washington at Valley Forge, and various localities connected with the memory of the "mad General," Anthony Wayne; "La Villa Real de Santa Fe," by Ernest Ingersoll, a lively sketch of the present condition of the ancient Spanish American city; an "Irish Fishing Village," by J. L. Conard; and the "Swiss Rhine," an excellent paper on the baths of Bad Ragaz and Pfäffikon, with some account of the historical associations of that romantic region, by S. H. M. Byers. Mrs. Mary Treat contributes one of her admirable studies in natural history, relating her observations on the habits of certain species of spiders and wasps. Mrs. John Lillie offers a series of sketches of famous English musicians, Dr. W. C. Prime devotes a paper of curious learning and research to the "Early History of Bible Illustration," and there are poems by Mrs. L. C. Moulton, Thomas Dunn English, and others.

LIPPINCOTT.

*The tenth chapter of "Summerland Sketches," entitled the "American Poepen," describes the remarkable ruins of Uxmal in Central America, which exhibit many features of less interest than those of Nineveh and other remains of antiquity in the East. Eighty years ago the district was an unexplored wilderness. There was a tradition among the Jesuit missions of Valladolid of the vestiges of a great city near Merida, but the rediscovery of the Casas Grandes was as complete a surprise to the inhabitants as the exhumation of Pompeii to the people of Nola and Castellane. The origin of these ruins is shrouded in mystery. But there is every reason to believe that they were prior to the arrival of Columbus by a period which reaches a far beyond the oldest records and traditions of the American aborigines. They appear to bear no mere resemblance to the ancient palaces and temples of Mexico and Peru than to those of Lixos and Nineveh. The founders of Uxmal were evidently familiar with the manufacture and use of metallic implements; their stone-work does not present the chiseled appearance of the Mexican masonry, cut with chisels of stone; and to produce the elaborate cornices and moldings of the public buildings with such brittle tools, would surpass the limits of human patience. The traditions of Mexico do not corroborate the remote date of the Casas Grandes; but the rediscovery of the Casas Grandes was as complete a surprise to the inhabitants as the exhumation of Pompeii to the people of Nola and Castellane.**The tenth chapter of "Summerland Sketches," entitled the "American Poepen," describes the remarkable ruins of Uxmal in Central America, which exhibit many features of less interest than those of Nineveh and other remains of antiquity in the East. Eighty years ago the district was an unexplored wilderness. 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